

Point Three



The Toc H magazine
July 1983 10p



COLSTERDALE

(pages 8-9)

Point Three

Editor: Frank Rice MA MA FBIM
Designer: Sybil A Chick

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Point Three is available from the Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Single copies 10p. Annual subscription: £1.20. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

Cover picture

The River Burn, near Colsterdale – see pp 8-9

Photo: R Stayman

2

Personal View

When you read these notes, the General Election result will be old news, though I am writing them in the middle of the campaign. It is strident and personalised and in the hunt for votes, issues are fudged and ground is shifted and lies are told. Party spokesmen promise Eden if we vote for them and personal tragedy and national disaster if we vote for someone else.

A General Election is a matter of professional life and death for politicians. However enlightened and public spirited they may be, the fight is about gaining power if they haven't got it, or retaining it if they have. Few of us are influenced much by what they say. Most of us will vote as we voted last time – partly from habit, partly from our inherited and acquired general attitudes. The few of us who influence elections by changing party allegiance, do so in general for passing reasons – what we see at the time as our personal interest, or attraction to or aversion from an 'image' created by advertisers, journalists and TV presenters.

Politicians may see themselves as normal but in fact they are rare birds. Most of us choose not to be party activists and are quickly bored and irritated by the ranting and posturings that mark election campaigns. These campaigns are at the centre of the lives of politicians; for the rest of us, they are on the periphery. It often seems to me that politicians, like TV personalities, live in a fantasy world of their own creation.

Experience has taught most of us that the results of a UK election make little difference to our daily lives. Any changes that a British government can make in one term of office are bound to be on a much smaller scale than manifestoes and campaign speeches suggest. No election held so far in this country has really given us a choice between freedom and tyranny. On 10 June, whether we have a radical, right wing Conservative government or a left dominated Labour government, we shall still be a relatively free people, living relatively comfortable lives in a relatively law abiding democracy. We are still light years away from finding ourselves living in a terrorised police state or a starvation siege economy and there is no early prospect of any government bringing us significantly closer to either. A careful examination of our post-war history shows only slight variations in the achievements directly attributable to either Labour or Conservative governments. It takes a very long time here to produce radical change. Most of our leading politicians have broadly similar views about personal freedom, national security and unemployment – though you wouldn't think it from their electoral speeches.

Furthermore, the world has shrunk and all countries are increasingly interdependent. Though they would hate to admit it, our politicians now have very little real power to take strong, independent action. Whatever the ideology of our next government, I do not believe, for example, that they would attempt to impose economic and commercial sanctions on South Africa: the effects on our trading and employment position would rule it out. I do not believe that any government I can envisage coming out of this election would at once unilaterally disarm in this highly dangerous world – whatever their manifestoes may say. It is highly unlikely that any new UK government would seriously attempt – against all the lessons of recent and contemporary experience – to solve unemployment by massive inflation. Even if they wanted to try, they would have to overcome the solid obstructions of public opinion and the permanent Civil Service; if they surmounted those obstacles, they would be brought to heel fairly rapidly by the IMF. We just don't have the national power to act alone.

Of course, I am writing this at a time when I am irritated almost beyond endurance by the stridency and exaggeration of party politicians on the campaign trail. I don't in my calmer moments believe that elections don't matter or that changes can't come. But elections don't matter to us nearly as much as politicians pretend and real change does take a long time. For almost half the period since 1945 we have had socialist governments and they have succeeded only in moving us a few notches towards the kind of society they want. The evidence of the slow progress against our national inertia made by Mrs Thatcher in her first four years suggests that another term of office would enable her to take no more than one or two steps in the direction she favours. The truth is that changes come slowly as a result of our changes in attitude – in particular of the rise and fall of self confidence in our future. Some argue that it is precisely because Mrs Thatcher grasped this lesson early and has worked to change our national attitudes and to raise our self confidence that she and her party have mysteriously risen in national opinion polls when everything around us would suggest that she should crash. It may be so.

Meanwhile, whatever the result on 9 June, it is then, thank God, that 'The tumult and the shouting dies'.

FGR

Photo: Barrie H J Hall



Recently, Kenneth Prideaux-Brune, Toc H Director, toured part of the SW Region, accompanied by Regional Chairman Mary Edwards. The pictures were taken in Truro and in Okehampton where Ken addressed large District gatherings.



Photo: Shropshire Star



In April, the Lamp belonging to the former Shrewsbury Branch was handed over to Shrewsbury's KSLI Museum. This Lamp (The 6th (Pals) KSLI Battalion Lamp) was first lit by the Prince of Wales at the Royal Albert Hall in 1933 and dedicated in St Chad's Church in 1934.

Photo: Morecambe Visitor



Some of the hosts and guests at the tea party and concert run each year for Toc H Morecambe's blind friends. The gentleman seated fourth from the right (behind the flowers!) is 90 years old and, besides being an early Toc H member, was one of St Dunstan's first patients.

Photo: South Kent Newspapers



Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during April and May.

- 3 — Mansfield Woodhouse (J), Thurrock (J), Treforest (M)
- 2 — Bournemouth and Christchurch (J) North Hinksey (J), Wyre Forest (J)
- 1 — Broughton Astley (M), Budleigh Salterton (M), Cambridge (J), Charlton (J), Dover (W), Glastonbury and Street (J), Glenrothes (J), Hunstanton (W), Kendal (J), Looe (M), North Nottingham (J), Norwich (W), Plymstock (W), Portmadoc (M), Rushden (M), Rushden Afternoon (W), Rushden Royal (W), Surrey District, Taunton (J), Uxbridge (J), Welshpool (M), Wimborne Wags (J) Grp, Wolverton (M), Wortley-de-Leeds (M), Wrexham (J).

A warm welcome to 42 new members

For your diary

Greenbelt Christian Festival

at
Knebworth Park, Herts
26 to 29 August
(Bank Holiday Weekend)

We regret to say that there will not be an official Toc H presence as planned at this annual Christian Festival.

Nevertheless, we give the Festival our full support and many of us will be there as individuals. We hope to be able at least to have some rallying point at which we can all meet.

Full details of the Festival are given on p24 of our 1983 projects booklet (though the correct dates are as given at the head of this notice). Tickets are available from Greenbelt Festivals, 15 Eynham Road, Wood Lane, London W12 0HD.

The most recent of Hythe Branch's antiques fairs raised £200 towards the cost of their new bus -- much needed by the old and disabled in the town.

Round and about with Scott Shaw

Magnus Magnusson eat your heart out!

Apart from two transvestites in April (how's that for an opening?) it's been three months since there's been a young lady's picture on this page, and now we've got two!

The event was the 'cup final' of the Toc H Attleborough version of 'Brain of Britain' which enters its 20th year in 1984, reports Charles Sturman.

From February to March, 21 teams representing local organisations and firms competed in this quiz organised by the Branch, in front of an audience of more than 70. Refreshments were available with the added attraction of a bring and buy stall in aid of the Norfolk activities fund.

Our picture shows the



Photo: Peter Lange

presentation being made to the Attleborough players who beat the Lions by a narrow margin. Already, says

Charles, 24 teams have entered for next year's quiz. It just shows what a really bright idea can produce!

Don't be shy!

Since the May issue, we've had five more twins — Crediton Women, Broadway Men, Bognor Regis Joint, Stourbridge Joint and Cromer Men.

All have now been paired off but I'm sure there's many more out there who'd like to link up with another Branch and swap experiences or ideas by letter or tape. Just write in to *Point Three* and we'll do the rest — it doesn't hurt a bit!

Ashford is good for you!

You expect churchmen to live long, but even so, it was a surprise to read of a Branch padre from 50 years back, meeting the current padre when Ashford (Kent) Men celebrated their golden jubilee as custodians of their Lamp.

Jack Morley reports that their original padre, the Very Revd Ian White-Thomson, retired Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, spoke about the early days.

Either they choose their padres carefully or Toc H helps promotion prospects, because their present padre is a Canon. Can any Branch boast a bishop?



Photo: Peter Powell

Toc H on top, down under!

Extracts from one of our newest publications, Bob Knight's *Joyful Journey* are broadcast frequently on Radio New Zealand.

Philip Liner, Honorary Commissioner for Toc H New Zealand, is also a broadcaster who has a daily radio show called *Roundabout* with, he says, the same intentions as this page!

Says Philip: 'In my radio show I have each day a two minute "pause for reflection", and the Religious Broadcasts department which makes up these items, makes frequent use of this little book, to the delight of so many listeners'.

Joyful Journey, a successor to *Yours is the Glory*, is an anthology of daily thoughts and prayer which fit in with the Toc H intercessions scheme, designed to be used by all members and staff. The book is available, price £1 plus 50p postage from Wendover.

What they did at Cuddesdon

I got such a bright, concise report from our correspondent, Betty Whyatt that I reproduce it almost without alteration (nobody's perfect, not even me).

Where do Thanet and West Essex meet? At Cuddesdon House, where members of both Districts got together for the weekend. There was plenty of time for walking, lazing and exchanging views and we had a grand social evening on the Saturday.

The weather blessed us and on Sunday morning we all turned out in old

clothes to tackle the weeds in the lovely grounds. Some of us worked and some of us shirked but we must have done a good job for David the Warden was pleased. Adrian Dudman, the General Secretary, stood up valiantly to argument and criticism and gave us a clear picture of Toc H today, convincing us that despite (or perhaps because of) the wind of change blowing through the Movement, there is still the same fervour and both young and old are still striving to follow the Toc H way of life...

What a good thing it would be if more Districts got together in this way — it is a great experience. The only grumble we heard about the weekend was that it was too short!

The hills are alive with the sound of tramping!

Something fishy here, I thought — or to be more correct — soggy! Remember that awful sponsored hike when Leigh Branch raised £300 for their minibus fund (February *Round and About*)?

That lot on the other side of the Pennines have tried it too — and just reading about it makes me tired! Father and son Jack and Paul Flintoft trekked 26 miles, taking in Blakey Topping, over the moors to Goatland, Wheedale Lodge, returning to their starting point at Saltersgate 11 hours later. I've no idea where they went but it sounds most impressive!

Their heroic effort raised £250 towards the £12,000 needed for the Pickering Toc H minibus, of which £3,500 has already been raised. Well done lads!

Down in the dungeons thirteen slept . . .

. . . or at least they tried to! Members of Newbottle Joint Group recently spent nine chilly, damp, hours in the dungeons of Lumley Castle, on a sponsored 'spook in'.

Among the long term tenants of this 13th century castle, according to the *Newcastle Journal*, is Lady Lily, said to have been murdered by monks and dumped down a well.

Jean Fife, the Group's chairman, is used to being around at night, because she's a nurse! Fortunately she wasn't needed to cope with any fainting cases — perhaps it was Lady Lily's night off.

However, I applaud their courage in raising money towards a target of £4,000 for holidays for the under privileged, elderly and handicapped in Tyne and Wear. They also got into two regional daily newspapers — which isn't difficult if you're as imaginative as they are.

How much did they raise? Over £180 for the nine hours, which works out at £20 an hour. You'd have to pay me more than that, before I'd spend the night in a dungeon!

Out . . .

Melton Women have given £1,600 to local charities over the last year; Newbury's dance raised £120 for a hospice for mentally handicapped children; and Bargoed donated £200 towards buying hospital equipment costing £50,000.

. . . and in

A dance raised £138 for the Toc H Colsterdale recreation centre; St Anne's coffee morning raised £90 for their funds; the mother and toddler group of the local Methodist church had donated £100 to Market Harborough Branch for a Toc H holiday for children; and the spring fair on the Isle of Wight raised £109 which has been donated to the Family Purse.

Don't read this unless you're fit!

Are you old enough — around 70 — to do a 36 mile sponsored walk? Most of us have given up that sort of thing long before then, but not Ron Tyler of South Devon District. In fact, he did the walk (from Teignmouth to Doddiscombsleigh and back) twice — the first time was just a rehearsal!

It had all started when he'd looked in a bus timetable and saw a pub with a curious name — the Nobody Inn. Said Ron 'I decided it would be fun to

tell my friends I walked so many miles and found nobody in so walked back'.

The 'real' walk was certainly memorable. Ron's report brings the day vividly to life: *'I set off about 7 am on a cool but fine morning and was thrice blessed by hearing the cuckoo, seeing lambs at play, and smelling new mown hay. I called at a pub, where an elderly lady told me one version of how the Nobody Inn got its name, concerning the funeral of former landlord and an empty coffin, but there are other versions.'*

'When I approached a primary school I was surprised to see the pupils lining the wall, to cheer me on. It seems the landlord had told them about my walk, and when they later brought what they had collected, while I enjoyed a free lunch at the Inn (yes, there was somebody in!) it really made my day.'

'The funny part was that I arrived before the committee who were supposed to be welcoming me. Someone suggested I go back half a mile and make my re-entry, but I wasn't falling for that. I arrived back about 7 pm tired, but glad to have achieved my purpose, which later enabled me to hand over £500 to a fund for local flatlets.'

But that wasn't the end of it — Ron did another sponsored walk, this time to Exeter, and raised £300. Watch it, Ron — you could easily become addicted to sponsored walks! Me, I prefer something less strenuous. Anyone want to support me in a sponsored cocoa drinking marathon?

Concert(ed) effort

Have you ever enjoyed an entertainment sandwich? Enfield, Edmonton and Hoddesdon provided a ham and salad lunch for 125 elderly people. That was the top of the 'sandwich'. And the middle? — a concert, to give them time to work up an appetite for the bottom part of the 'sandwich' — more refreshments — before they went home!

Bad news is good news

Have you ever jumped on a bandwagon? Sometimes hitching a lift can get you noticed! Following objections from local residents, the proposed re-siting of a public lavatory and the Toc H hut (see September 1982 issue) has been in the news again.

The Men's and Women's Branches saw their chance, jumped in and made a splash! Writing to the *Barnet Press*, they said *'In case there are some people who regard a new Toc H building as undesirable as the toilets, may I explain that our Movement, which is world wide, exists to give practical Christian service to*

the community'. They then go on to explain their own activities, clearly and briefly, finishing with an invitation to readers to come along.

Whetstone Branches now saw their chance to 'plug in' to a 'live' news item. The result was a nice piece with a bold headline, covering 4½ x 3½ ins in one of the most important parts of the paper — the letters page!

There's a moral here for those Branches struggling to get out of the clubs and societies 'dustbin section' of their local paper: don't send in reports with stuff about who took light and who served tea. Wait till you've got real news, or a comment on a 'running story' then get in — quick, short and sharp!

What they did to the Mayor

Have you ever got the feeling that those first aid people are always hoping something will go wrong, so they'll have someone to work on? You've seen them — standing in the background at dances, in the cinemas, at football matches, and no-one ever breaks a leg, has a baby, loses an arm or goes down with the galloping gunkies.

Clearly one of them cracked under the strain — and she was only young, too. At Gravesend Men's sixth mini handi dance for the disabled, everything went well as usual, but the mayor arrived and before you could say 'double hernia' he was trussed(!) up as if he'd broken his arm. However, it seemed to satisfy the young Red Cross cadet and they had no more trouble from her.

Over 30 disabled people of all ages enjoyed dancing, a conjuror and tea by members' wives. Help came from British Red Cross cadets and the National Sea Training College. A memorable evening — especially for the mayor!



Photo: Gravesend Reporter

The last word

We've got newspapers, television, telephones, even satellites for communication, but it does your heart good to read this little announcement in the North Wales Weekly News *'Toc H trip for senior citizens — if intending to go, please affix your name on list now at Mochdre Post Office'*. We're sure it works!



Chippenham

Chippenham's Twin -a progress report

by Reginald C Coates



La Flèche

In earlier articles (*Point Three* February and July 1982), the birth and early progress of the Chippenham Twinning Association was traced. In February this year, the banner of Chippenham Branch of Toc H was one of the 50 carried by the 100 local organisations represented at the signing of the twinning documents at the Neeld Hall by the Mayors of La Flèche and Chippenham and the Chairmen of the Twinning Associations. The documents were later taken to La Flèche, where a similar ceremony had been held in September 1982. Being largely inspired by the principles of Toc H, the ceremonies in Chippenham concluded with an interdenominational service organised by Chippenham Council of Churches at St Andrew's Parish Church. The lesson (the parable of the Good Samaritan) was read in English by Mr Warne and in French by Dr Maxime Mulocher, whose son Maxence was the first link with Chippenham. The sermon by Prebendary George Willis, based on the lesson, expressed in other words what we call the Four Points.

For Chippenham, this twinning comes at a time when the need for friendship among countries in Europe and in the rest of the world has never been greater. It comes at a time, too, when Great Britain is still perhaps a rather reluctant novice in the European Community; still a little cautious with the memory of two world wars in this century. It was touching therefore at the La Flèche ceremony that the Mayor and delegation from the German town of Obernkirchen, twinned with La Flèche for the past 12 years, stood at the War Memorial with their English and French friends to remember

those who had died in the cause of our freedom.

Twinning contacts are not however intended to honour the past but to build the future. Our Twinning Association organises annual coach trips to France for the general membership. They are received into La Flèche families, and in return act as hosts when the French party arrives in Chippenham. These coach trips have led to numerous private visits, so that rarely does a week go by without some form of contact. The local comprehensive schools have already made two exchange visits, and one party has been to Obernkirchen. Sporting contacts started appropriately with a visit from an archery team (La Flèche can be translated as 'The Arrow'); musical exchanges are also planned. International Direct Dialling was opened in Chippenham with a call to La Flèche by officers of the Association.

By arrangement with Chippenham's largest employer, exchanges of young engineers have been organised. Bruno Sere, a 22 year old student in Angers University, carried out a 12 week training course at Westinghouse . . . In return a young Chippenham student is currently working at Cebal, which produces aluminium containers in La Flèche. Another, Miss Naomi Jones of Chippenham, is spending an academic year teaching English at the Bouchevereau Comprehensive School and has volunteered to teach English to adults at their local community centre.

Whilst Bruno was in Chippenham, he joined a Toc H committee set up to try to

promote a youth project in the area with participants from La Flèche, Poperinge and Chippenham. Interest in Toc H youth projects, as one method of youth exchanges, has already been shown in La Flèche, and copies of Toc H literature in French have been sent there. It was not, in fact, possible to arrange such a project for 1983 due to lack of time to organise it and to attract suitable Chippenham youngsters. At present, there is a greater desire for contacts by the French youth than by the English - no doubt because our educational system generally drops the language of our nearest neighbours at or before 'O' level standard. There is another important question to be resolved before the project goes forward in 1984. The Twinning Association favours exchanges in families so that long term and hopefully permanent friendships will be formed. They fear that if groups of four to six people from two or more countries found themselves living together in group accommodation (even if such were available) they might end up in the same national groups taking the easy option of speaking their own languages. The intended leader of the group, though, could not conceive a Toc H project where the participants went to separate homes each night . . .

One of the objectives of the friendship is fairmindedness, and an important milestone was an evening held at Chippenham Branch some three years ago when MEP Richard Cottrell spoke about the work of the European Parliament. If other Toc H Branches have European Members of his quality they might well follow suit. (Richard Cottrell later

Photos: Reg Coates



Bruno Sere, an engineering student from La Flèche, tells listeners of Chippenham and District Tapes for the Handicapped about his impressions of Chippenham.



Bruno Sere visits a rehearsal of the world famous Treorchy Male Choir in the Rhondda Valley (The 100 strong choir has been to Wiltshire six times to sing in aid of Greathouse Leonard Cheshire Foundation Home, five of these concerts being organised by Chippenham Toc H). Bruno is centre, centre right is Mr John Cynan Jones, conductor.



Weymouth's Toc H Beavers raised £100 with their fancy dress hunt through the town of the elusive 'boggitt'. The money will be used to provide a holiday later this year for deprived children in the area.

IDEAS CORNER

You'll soon be planning your programme for the Autumn — so here's an idea for a good speaker! Throughout the summer, youngsters from your area will have been on Toc H Projects . . . and your Regional office, or staff member working in your locality, will have their addresses. Yes, you've got it — ask them to arrange for one of the project volunteers to come along and give you a talk. But beware — Toc H projects are hard work and the youngsters are expected to put a lot into them: you may find they know more about the real essence of Toc H than you think!



Warden Fred Mason shares in Verden's playscheme.

became one of the first members of Chippenham Twinning Association).

The objective of fairmindedness is of course best met by means of personal contact with our French neighbours, and it is pleasing to note how quickly the half truths which are so often quoted in the press, are seen for what they really are when people get together. In days of instant communication by television from the moon, it is perhaps alarming how little neighbours know about each other.

Communications between the towns and within the groups is important, and besides regular newsletters from the secretary to families and member groups such as Toc H, the press both in Chippenham and La Flèche carry the news of principal events, usually on a weekly basis.

What of the future? Twinning of towns is

sometimes dismissed as causing unnecessary rateborne expenditure by its opponents. In Chippenham, at least, this is not the case. It is not necessary to spend ratepayers' money to form friendships: the necessary finances are easily raised by the members themselves in the usual ways. The underlying ideals, which can find no better expression than in the Toc H Four Points can be achieved only by constant effort and with the help of Our Lord.

As the countries of Europe draw closer together there are, and will be, arguments and discussions between partners adjusting to the new situation. Our own attitudes will play a very important role in the future of our community, and the forming of lasting friendships can do nothing but good.

I believe that Toc H, as a bridge builder between men and women of all races,

Friends Anonymous Service

(Registered Charity No CP265514R)

**RESIDENT FULL-TIME
VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN A
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN
HACKNEY'S EAST END OF
LONDON**

Wanted for period of not less than one year to live and work in Hackney's East End of London in a Christian Community, believing that God speaks through men of all faiths. Applicants must be tolerant and open-minded and ready to learn the difficulties and hard facts about life together with others in an ecumenical/interfaith centre, and must be prepared to work extremely hard for very long hours and with very little time to themselves. Work, which will entail dealing with elderly, disabled, victims of crime, ethnic minorities, youth and children, is often mundane, in a very depressed and deprived urban area. Full board and lodging and pocket-money provided (Nat C S V Scale).

The work and life in the Community demands total commitment and applicants who are uncertain about themselves, their relationships and their faith will find this work impossible and life in Community unbearable, but applicants who are able to make a commitment will find the work very worthwhile, satisfying and a training for life.

For application forms and information write to:

Revd Gualter R de Mello, Executive Director, Friends Anonymous Service, Prideaux House, 10 Church Crescent, London E9 7DL.

creeds, wealth and social standing has a vital role to play, through the medium of their local Twinning Association.

Youth projects do have most exciting potential, and besides sowing the seeds of Toc H in various mainland countries, might even bring about the growth of the Movement among our own British young people.

Organisations like Rotary often form private 'twinning' arrangements with continental clubs. I have personally found a great deal of sympathy on the Continent for the work which Toc H members do in Chippenham. I appreciate that Toc H does not generally exist in Europe but it would not be difficult to find men and women of like mind if older Branches here wished to make exchanges with clubs in their town's twin. After all, the problems we seek to remedy are universal. Why not have a try?

COLSTERDALE - a day

Most people, I'm sure will have heard of Wensleydale in Yorkshire, if only for its association with cheese, and many will have visited it but I wonder how many have explored some of its tributary valleys — Bishopsdale, Coverdale, Cotterdale, Raydale, Waldendale — Colsterdale? Certainly the latter is now much more widely known, even to people far beyond the county boundary, than it was in 1969 when the Toc H Colsterdale Centre was officially opened. Incidentally, there isn't a river Colster — it's a Burn.

The story of Colsterdale, however, started five years earlier when the late Bob Purdy, Area Secretary for Yorkshire, reported to the membership that there was a derelict farmhouse at the head of a small valley not far from Ripon which was ideally suitable for conversion to, as he put it, a northern Dor Knap.

The idea was eagerly taken up, a 21 year lease at a peppercorn rent obtained from the Swinton Estate, a survey made, plans prepared, and a public appeal for funds launched. Nowhere near enough money came in so members in Yorkshire said 'Right, we'll do the job ourselves' and for the next five years they laboured mightily, mostly at weekends. A water supply from a nearby spring was laid on, drains dug and a septic tank built, walls knocked down, walls built up, concrete laid, floors tiled, walls plastered, windows put in, internal plumbing and electric wiring installed, and all the hundred and one jobs which go towards the creation of a house.

All this was done on a shoestring. Some help came from Headquarters by way of a loan and many local firms supplied materials at cost price, or in some instances free, but the labour was provided by scores of Toc H men and women, and non-members too, who gave of their time and skill and also, with equal generosity, money when required. The result is that they now look upon it as their Centre. Many still support it with regular donations or money raising efforts and there are frequent visitors who proudly point out parts of the building that they had a hand in or reminisce nostalgically over the good times they had digging trenches, mixing concrete or jacking up heavy window lintels.

The original intention was that it should be a 'Youth' Centre and although it is open to, and is used by, people of all ages this concept still applies; about half its 'clients' are under 15 and of the remainder many are under 20. For this reason the furnishings might be described as 'adequate', comfortable rather than luxurious (above average wear and tear can be expected from a houseful of boisterous youngsters!) and the charges have always been maintained at a level which will keep the Centre within the reach of groups with limited resources.

In spite of this constraint it is the Management Committee's proud boast that its finances have always been 'in the black'. Income has always been adequate to cover running costs and normal maintenance and repairs (largely done by committee members themselves) and special fund raising efforts in the early

days took care of major items of improvement. For instance, money from a Trust Fund helped us to build an extension and when we wanted to install mains electricity the membership in Yorkshire weighed in with £500. In recent years, however, it has been possible to finance this kind of expenditure from the reserves which have been built up.

Of course for a number of years we did not have a Warden to pay for. For one thing we couldn't afford one nor had we anywhere for him to live. Once, however, the aforementioned extension was completed in 1976 the way was open and we obtained the services of Stan Whitehead who came to us each year for the period March to October. But it was always our ambition to have a Warden all the year round and when Stan retired at the end of 1980 we took the plunge and engaged Ron Gash as full time resident Warden. And here we must express grateful thanks to the CEC because they generously agreed to half the cost of the Warden's salary being met from central funds if the Committee could not immediately find the full amount. In fact somewhat less than half the cost was needed from them in the first year and in 1982 we were able to meet the full cost.

So much for history — what amenities has the Centre to offer? Well, on the ground floors there is a kitchen, a bit on the small side but adequate, equipped with a large color gas range, oven and grill and plenty of cupboard space and food preparation surfaces. Close by there is a larder and washing-up area. Crockery,



Photo: Bob Broeder



Photo: Ian Teasdale

sh of Yorkshire relish

cutlery and cooking utensils are provided.

Adjoining the kitchen is the dining room and beyond that there is a spacious lounge with a large bow window looking out to the moors to the south. There is also a room for drying wet clothes or depositing muddy walking boots and two showers. Upstairs there are four dormitories sleeping eight, six, six and four respectively in bunk beds and ample toilet and washing facilities. Recently an additional dormitory sleeping eight has been provided in the downstairs room of the extension. All rooms are heated by calor gas.

Parties using the Centre are required to bring and cook their own food, keep the house clean, and arrange their own programme but of course the Warden is always available to provide information on things to do and places to visit and assist in activities if required.

The accent is very much on living together as a family and sharing all the chores which is, of course, one of the principles of the Toc H way of life. It is this aspect of the Centre which makes it so attractive to organisations such as the Probation Service, they tell us that the 'Colsterdale experience' has played a small part in the rehabilitation of many a young offender. We also have a long association with a Bristal near Doncaster. They regularly send parties to do a wide variety of work for us — painting and decorating, joinery, masonry, etc. — and they too confirm how valuable this experience is as part of their training programme.

Next question — what is there to do at Colsterdale? If you hanker after the bright lights the answer is, 'Nothing', but if you want to 'get away from it all' for a spell then it's just the place for you. There are no street lights, hardly any traffic, we have no TV, and the nearest pub is five miles away! — but we are on the phone. Your only distraction is likely to be the call of the grouse or curlew and, in spring, the sheep and their lambs.

Colsterdale is a steep sided valley about seven miles long and contains less than a dozen houses or farms and we are the last but one at the head — that's as far as the road goes. On the north side where we are situated it's grassland while the other side of the valley consists of a grouse moor.

If you are interested in walking, botany, ornithology, fishing, pony trekking or just lazing about then there's no need for you to leave the valley, but the Centre is a good base for exploring some of the beauties of the Yorkshire dales. There are ruined abbeys at Fountains, Jervaulx and Coverham; castles at Middleham, Bolton and Richmond; and Ripon, Harrogate and York are within easy reach. Some parties have been known to visit the seaside 70 miles away but we think that's going a bit too far!

Last question — who uses Colsterdale? In recent years the pattern has been fairly regular. Toc H parties and Toc H organised projects for deprived or mentally or physically handicapped children have accounted for 23% of bookings; church and youth groups and Scouts, 28%; Local Authority schools,

21%; and the Probation and Social Services, 28%. The majority, as might be expected, come from Yorkshire, or the North East but those from further afield have been increasing; in 1981 the Midlands and the South accounted for 20% while last year it was 30%.

Until 1982 we were open from late February to early November and had little difficulty in obtaining bookings for all but a handful of the available weekend or mid-week periods. Last year we were open all the year round and obtained an encouraging number of bookings in the winter months; this year looks like being even better as there were nine bookings in January and February — it doesn't always snow in Colsterdale!

Well, I wonder whether the foregoing has whetted your appetite for what could be an invigorating and enjoyable experience among beautiful scenery? If so, why not contact our booking secretary for details of charges and available dates. He's Ernest Roebuck, 53 Brownhill Lane, Holmbridge, Huddersfield HD7 1QW (Tel: Holmfirth 048-489-2705).

Finally I think I should mention that Colsterdale is a Regional rather than a National Centre and responsibility for it, financial or otherwise, is entirely in the hands of the Regional Council and its Colsterdale Committee. The latter are a dedicated bunch of people, a real 'working' committee, not afraid to roll up their sleeves and do all manner of jobs, and the continued success of Colsterdale is entirely due to their hard work and enthusiasm.



Photo: Ian Taylor

Photo: Dick Stayman

We will Remember...

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.
—Editor

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In December

Eric Lister (Aigburth)

In January

Philip J Brooks (Lindley)

In February

Jack Hardaker (Looe)

In March

William Teasdale (Milborne Port)

In April

Donald S Berry (Wroughton)

Ronald M Bray (Hunstanton)

Donald G Bruce (Honiton)

Mary B Cobb (Elmstead)

John G Davies (Camborne)

Rita H Davies (Pwllheli)

Godfrey DU Pontet (Honiton)

Bunty Fraser (Derby District)

Kathleen M Gosling (West Worthing)

John de Courcy Griffin (West Herts District)

Max Hienerwadel (Central Overseas)

Alfred W Hull (Fleet)

Mildred J Lloyd (Uckfield)

Ethel M Maddocks (Newport (Gwent))

A Clifford Parker (Hunstanton)

Thomas Pierce (Chirk)

Hilda M Rogers (Kirkley)

In May

Alan D ('Dickie') Dee (Cambridge)

J H (Jack) Ditcham (Gorleston)

Rev Ralph S Dye (Norwich District)

Fred Garland (Exmouth)

A Margaret Grant (Norwich)

Rosa J Harland (Alton)

Miriam J Wilshaw (Glastonbury and Street)

Albert John Talbot, of Horton Kirby (Kent) Men's Branch, died last November at the age of 81. He served in both World Wars: in WW1 he added three years to his age in order to enlist and saw front line service and in WW2 he reached the rank of Squadron Leader in the RAFVR, though he was in a reserved occupation. He had very wide interests and, besides his Toc H commitment, worked with his church, with local hospitals and with the Scout Movement.

Harold D Gardner, of Stockport Joint Branch, died in February. 'From 1946 he had been Secretary of the Stockport and District Children's Camp at Adlington and he will be greatly missed by all those who worked under his leadership to maintain and improve the Camp for our underprivileged and disabled children. Harold's Toc H enthusiasm spread far beyond his home area: during

the course of his travels, he visited many Branches. We extend our sympathies to his wife Betty who encouraged and helped him in all he did.

The Adlington Camp will remain a memorial to a truly great Toc H member.

FL

Alfreton Branch report the death of **Jack Bacon** in February. For 35 of his 40 membership years, Jack was Branch Treasurer and very concerned to keep up Branch contributions to the Family Purse. He was active in all the many projects tackled by the Branch. Jack had wide interests. He was a keen stamp and coin collector, a Chief Inspector in the Special Constabulary, and was awarded the Jubilee Medal and the Scouting Medal of Honour for his long and outstanding work with the Scout Movement. He will be greatly missed.

Hitchin Men's Branch write to say how much they will miss **Wing Commander Freddie Petch RAF retd**, who died in March. Freddie, a strong man with positive views, was a founder member when the Hitchin Branch was re-formed some 24 years ago, and held most Branch offices. His outspoken views as a Central Councillor will be remembered by many as will his deep loyalty to the Movement.

Rosina Burgoyne of Kingswood (Avon) Joint Branch died suddenly in February. Her Branch write to say that, despite periods of ill health, Rosina had been an active member for 35 years. '... it could be truly said of her that she was a good friend and a good neighbour and she will be sadly missed.'

Arthur Pengelly, Launceston Joint Branch, died in March at the age of 77, in the very hospital through which he had spread cheer for many years as a visitor. Arthur was always a 'do-er' rather than a jobmaster. Until he was overtaken by a combination of old age and ill health, he was always eager to offer personal help.

Joe Hadlow, one time Chairman of the former Eastleigh Joint Branch, died in March at the age of 84. He had been an active member from 1941 and a Builder since the 1978 Eastleigh closure. He contended with great difficulties: some 13 years ago, a stroke left him paralysed and for many years he had speech difficulties resulting from cancer of the larynx. Fortunately, he retained the use of his right hand and he used it for years to write the most beautiful letters to

anyone he knew was in trouble: when he could no longer write, he typed his letters with one finger. We join all those who knew Joe in thanking God for his life and work.

John Wesley Green died in January after a short illness. A founder member of the former Sherwood Branch, John had been a Toc H member for 34 years, latterly in the Nottingham City Branch of which he had been Chairman and Secretary. He had also given unstinted service as Area Chairman and on Central Council and CEC. John's valuable and unobtrusive act of service were legion. He helped form the Friends of Ellerslie House, was Chairman of Nottingham's first Race Relations Committee and a founder member of the city's Samaritans.

Frederick George Keel (a member of High Brooms Branch for 49 years) died in April, aged 72. He joined Southborough Branch in 1927 and throughout his life was an active member, serving in all offices. He also served as a Central Councillor and as Chairman of the Tunbridge Wells District. Adept at extension work, he formed Branches at Crowborough and Edenbridge. He served well the Community in which he lived both in his professional life (as a respected officer of the former Southborough Urban District Council and as its Chief Officer four years before his retirement) and as a member of Toc H. He was a man of wisdom, integrity, high principles and courage as instanced by his award of the Military Medal of the North African Campaign in the 1939/45 War. He will be sadly missed by his wife Kathleen, by Toc H and his many friends.

FP

We hear from Orpington of the death in February of **Win Manser**, a former member of Orpington and West Worthing Branches.

Another former member (since 1929) to die recently was **W T Scott ('Scottie')**. 'Scottie' died last December at St Dunstan's in Brighton. Blinded on active service in WW1, he trained at St Dunstan's as a physiotherapist and set up a practice in Streatham. A founder member of the old Streatham Branch, 'Scottie' fired many with his enthusiasm and his refusal to accept defeat. Many remember him as a fine Toc H example and a devoted family man.

We give thanks for their lives

REFLECTIONS ON TOC H

by Robin Dunford

In a strange and perverse way, this gathering turned my thoughts more to the future of Toc H here than to Toc H in an international context. Somehow the uncertain future of Talbot House at Poperinge seemed less relevant to me personally than the declining state of the traditional Toc H to which I belong here in Birmingham. In one discussion at Cuddesdon, I stated that, while I would like to visit Jerusalem, I did not regard it as an essential journey for me to be a Christian. Similarly, a visit to Talbot House at Poperinge might bring me a deeper sense of history but I do not regard it as essential to my Toc H membership. Again we were told that there may be no more Clayton and Winant Volunteers after 1983, because Toc H has decided to withdraw supporting resources. This may be sad for many of us to contemplate but it fades into insignificance when I see around me the needs of many Birmingham citizens and realise how ill equipped Toc H has become to make a significant contribution to meeting those needs. Those who know me well will know that this does not indicate any lack of concern on my part for the Movement beyond the Birmingham city boundaries.

Keith Rea, our International Secretary, gave us a factual round up of the Toc H international scene. To me two things became apparent in what Keith said, and I would like to comment on them as a contribution to the agonising debate we are engaged in today about our future.

My first point is that Keith's picture of Toc H worldwide seems to me similar to all that I observe in this country. As long standing members grow older, become less active and, eventually, die so traditional Branches to which they belonged become inactive too and die with them. There is a school of thought which blames this decline of traditional Toc H on a lack of staff leadership and this view is typified in the letter of Fred Wilkins, which appeared in the May issue of *Point Three*. While there may be some truth in what Fred says, I would suggest that, in apportioning blame we must 'think fairly' and acknowledge that it is the ordinary membership (still more numerous by far than staff members) which is more culpable. In that ordinary membership I see little evidence today of the evangelistic enthusiasm of former years. With that enthusiasm we used to accept individual responsibility for leadership and growth in the Movement. Many of us can look back nostalgically to acknowledge that we owe our own membership to ordinary individuals

whose lives shone with the extraordinary light of their evangelistic purpose as they accepted their own responsibility for the growth of the Movement. To Fred Wilkins, and others who think like him both home and overseas, I would answer that question, 'Are we finished?' with an earnest plea that we need to recapture that lost evangelist enthusiasm and accept again that individual responsibility for leadership and growth in the Movement. This has been the very heart of the best that I personally have experienced in my 40 years in Toc H and it suggests the only way forward, that I can see, if Toc H is to survive. (See also Open Forum in this issue - Editor)

The second point taken from Keith's international round up was that, in several countries, instead of breaking down barriers, the Movement itself persisted in erecting them. My own observation tells me that we do the same thing here. We accept today that we belong to one Movement with both men and women members having equal status and representation. Yet 20 years ago what a brouhaha we engaged in when this issue was being debated! It is now a resolved conflict and I quote it as an example of the prejudicial barriers we erect every time the traditional mores of the Movement are challenged by new expressions of the spirit of Toc H. Another such conflict, almost resolved now, thank God, has been between the old style Marks and the new Centres like the one here in Birmingham. But the real, earnest and continuing conflict today is waged between traditional Branches and membership and the newer expressions of Toc H such as Projects, Impact Groups, and Action Groups with their less rigid affiliation to the Movement. Fred Wilkins, in his letter to *Point Three* suggests that these newer expressions of Toc H which do not conform to the traditional pattern 'should be abandoned'. To me this is unrealistic and destructively divisive. Just as we have come to accept that men and women can work together in the fellowship of joint Branches so, to my mind, we must now begin to accept, while there is yet time, that traditional Branches and new expressions of Toc H must live and work together in the fellowship of one Movement. To me it matters not that a young person leads a party of difficult teenagers in a strenuous climb over the Langdale Pikes but is only a member of the Birmingham Outward Group. To me the significant fact is that he is doing it, and wants to continue to do it, in the name and in the spirit of Toc H, even though he is not a Toc H member. That young person, in fact, is

Note: West Midlands and South Wales Region sponsored a gathering at Cuddesdon House in April to discuss 'Toc H Worldwide'. The author shared in this discussion and the article arose from his later reflections. — Editor

more actively engaged in creative work in the name of Toc H, and is demonstrating more of the spirit of the Movement to an unbelieving world, than many of us in Branches who mourn the loss of a tradition which, by our own destructive inactivity, we are allowing, like old soldiers, merely to fade away. Once again to Fred Wilkins, and those who feel as he does both here and abroad, I would say, encourage enthusiastically these new expressions of Toc H to blossom and flourish in the name and spirit of the Movement and learn to live and work together with them in the fellowship of the Movement. And, if you see anything worth saving in the traditional Branches we have grown up in, then don't wait for a decreasing number of staff members to save it for you, but get on with the task of saving it yourself.

I have never before experienced the need to write about Toc H in this passionate and intense way. The combination of our Regional gathering and Fred Wilkins' letter (which I read for the first time at Cuddesdon) provided the incentive which has, in the process, renewed my own enthusiasm for Toc H after a number of years on the sidelines. I have returned to Birmingham determined to explore how I can best influence (if I have any of that dangerous commodity left in me) the existing membership in the city to accept an enthusiastic return to individual responsibility for leadership and growth in the Movement. If that could be achieved by all of us in our own localities then I am convinced that we will find, collectively, a glorious future for Toc H in 'strengthening the good things thus begun, that with gallant and high hearted happiness we may work (both traditional and new expressions of Toc H together) for (God's) Kingdom in the wills of men'.

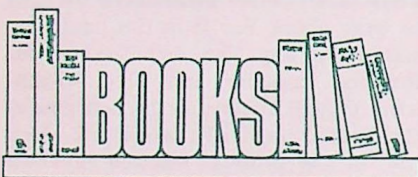
Please Note

Bognor Regis Joint Branch is always ready to welcome parties of children or old people visiting the town and to provide them with tea at the local Toc H Centre.

Please write in advance to: Vera Button, 178 London Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.



You're looking at a marathon man! Stephen Charlesworth agreed to be sponsored to raise funds for Newsome men when he ran in this year's London marathon. He raised £170 towards a total of £300 which they need for next year's outing, and entertainment for local housebound people.



Freed by Technology

This is not a book, but a film!

Knocking technology is a popular hobby but those of us who indulge in it do well to remember how much freedom and mobility have been added to the lives of disabled people by modern technology. Such modern miracles as word processors and micro-computers enable many disabled people to live full, active and productive lives. But technology doesn't come cheap, especially when the equipment has to be individually tailored to the particular person's disability. So Roger Jefcoate, an independent consultant who helps disabled people to obtain just the equipment they need, set up the AIDIS Trust to raise funds to ensure that many more people can get the right technological help. Now a 25 minute, 16 mm sound film of the Trust's work has been produced. It gives a heartening picture of just what the human spirit can achieve, despite bodily frailty, especially when help from the right technology is available. Branches might well find this film worth including on their programmes — as well as being

Open Forum

Are we finished?

I feel compelled to write to congratulate Fred Wilkins on his highly provocative letter (*Open Forum, May*). It is most invigorating to hear his unequivocal views so clearly stated. I must, however, totally disagree with almost all that he has said.

He implies throughout his letter that Branches are the central and only valid expression of Toc H membership. Naturally, as a Branch member myself, I would not dispute their validity but to claim that they are central is ludicrous. Members are found in Community Houses, on Projects, in Action and 'Impact' Groups and elsewhere. To confine Toc H to its Branch expression would necessarily destroy the appealing variety of our Movement and would sound its death knell.

Surely one of the reasons for establishing District membership was to enable people to become members of Toc H without committing them to frequent local meetings and events such as take place in a normal Branch. Many of my friends, for example, are members of a District and attend meetings of an Action Group. I hope that they will be allowed to continue to express their commitment to Toc H in the way which they find most appealing.

I must also disagree with Fred's priorities over the use of field staff. He says that they 'should be concerned only with building up membership in Branches'. But surely it is we Branch members of Toc H who are responsible for bringing in new people to our Branches. Most of us are steeped in many years of experience in the Movement and are highly qualified to introduce and inspire others. Let us not despair and

imagine that we have to rely upon the staff, good though they are.

No, we must demand something much more difficult of our field staff. We must place them where Toc H does not yet exist in strength and ask them to build a membership around an expression best suited to these people. This may be a Branch or a Project or an Action Group or something as yet unheard of.

We must also ask the staff to take on a training role. They must share their knowledge and experience with us so that we can fend for ourselves and spread Toc H. The future of our Movement lies firmly in the hands of each individual member of Toc H because the staff alone can achieve little.

To enter a dispute about how necessary the German playschemes are, both for the Army families and the reputation of Toc H, would result in a lengthy tome. Suffice it to say that they are vital on both counts. Let me end this letter with a note of agreement with Fred. The disbursement of tea and cakes has always been an important aspect of our work with the Army and it continues to this day.

Tim Day
London

I suppose partly what Fred Wilkins is aiming at is the present financial state of Toc H... It is rather depressing to the ordinary Branch member. I hope there will not be too much cutting down of staff at Headquarters.

I quite agree when he says that our priority should be to get Toc H back to what it was in the early days — a strong vigorous Movement.

As a comparatively new member,

fascinating in itself it would lead to a very worthwhile discussion. It can be hired from: Miss Gladys Hardy, Tregoyd, Shillingstone, Blandford, Dorset DT11 0SZ. Tel: 0258 86487. The hire charge is £10.

KP-B

An Irrepressible Bishop

The many friends of Bishop John Daly will be glad to know that he is writing his memoirs. They are entitled *Four Mitres* — a reference to the four dioceses over which he has presided — and subtitled 'Reminiscences of an Irrepressible Bishop'. The first volume, a mere 30 pages long, is now available. Written in a simple, chatty style, more like a long letter than an autobiography, it tells the

fascinating story of his pilgrimage from his childhood as the son of a stockbroker in Weybridge, via a year as ADC to Tubby Clayton and parishes in Tyneside and in a mining area of Yorkshire (and continued participation in Toc H) to his appointment, aged a mere 32, to be the first Bishop of The Gambia. His modesty prevents him revealing much of himself but cannot prevent the special gifts which he brought to his ministry from shining through these pages — his ability to win the friendship of all kinds of people, his ability to inspire others with a vision of the Kingdom and his recognition of the central importance of the sustaining power of prayer.

'Four Mitres' costs £1 + 20p p & p and is available from Bishop John Daly, Rye Croft, Honington, Shipston-on-Strour, Warwick.

KP-B

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

one thing I find a help is to offer a prayer for HQ staff every morning at 10.45 am (this being the time of the BBC Daily Service). This should not be too difficult for those members who are retired. If many members were praying at the same time for the good of the staff and the Movement as a whole, we could be surprised at the good it could do. It is so easy for men to get bogged down with committees and regulations: we need to bring God into the picture more than we do.

G W Harding
Bedford

Speaking as a young person working with Toc H, I would ask Fred Wilkins to try to understand. I value your experience of Toc H and what it means to you. I too have an experience of Toc H: it may differ but it is real.

People say, and rightly, that Toc H can be likened to a family. Well, I love my parents and, as I grow older, I learn to understand them and to discover about myself. Through their experiences, they desire the best for me, but they are failing if they try to make me like themselves. We are different. However, much of me is like them because I value what I see that's real in them.

Surely that is what Toc H is about.

Tubby wrote *'Our method and outlook must change. We must present our case in a new light. I think we must abandon any hope of putting our new wine in old bottles'*. And again, *'The danger of course is that all our energies should be expended on the membership. When this occurs, a Movement dies, and when it dies it becomes entombed in a Society...'* The true test of a Movement is its influence on those outside its membership. What we are doing is important.

Toc H offered me an opportunity to discover about myself, about other people and most importantly about God. The fact that I didn't have to accept what was being offered before I got involved was of immense value.

Surely the role of all of us is to offer that to other people. We can't close our eyes and claim that the world is not changing: it is. Toc H is changing, too. A Movement moves, and I trust and pray it will continue to do so. What should not change is the vision of what it's all about.

Barriers can be broken down. Look at the barriers that Christ broke down! That is no cause to abandon hope. For I believe that it is faith, hope and love in reality that will keep this

Movement alive. More vigorous practice of this is what is needed rather than trying to maintain a structure. It's the reality of this love that people of all ages need.

Nick Gore
Wimborne

On reading Fred Wilkins' contribution, a few thoughts sprang to my mind: *'I've heard it all before'*; *'someone else ought to do something about it'*; *'when in doubt blame the staff and central leadership'*.

It seems strange that in a Movement which believes in thinking fairly, so many members refuse to think fairly about anything which does not fit into their pattern!

Fred refers to *'The glorification of projects, Impact Groups, etc... which will produce nothing in the way of membership'*. I prefer Tubby's phrase. *'Do not get over anxious about getting young people into Toc H - but sweat blood to get Toc H into young people.'* He did not add as a rider *'providing they become Branch members'*.

Even so, one TAG Group (young people) in my District now has six or seven members of Toc H due largely to their own efforts - and there are others. We have a growing number of older 'young members' in Yorkshire who are now giving their time to encouraging new youngsters from schools to follow in their footsteps through Projects and Groups and leading them in Toc H, its meaning and purpose. The same senior young people are organising weekends shared with older Branch members who are willing to join them, and making every effort to build up the 'family concept' among them.

Most of the foregoing is due to the effort and dedication of Toc H staff. I know a few Branches who have asked for and received staff help in organising projects to involve themselves and young people. I know many others who don't want to know, who prefer to keep to themselves and their traditional Branch jobs. But I do not know of any Branch which has asked for help to increase its membership and been refused: I do know of Branches who have asked staff for help and then refused to consider any idea put to them, because, either it was something new or not the type of thing they were prepared to do...

My personal experience over the years with Branches closing has not been allowing them to close, but trying to persuade them not to! Most Branches close either because other interests have taken priority, or, because their members

have been content within themselves until they were too old and tired to do anything to replace lost members. Is our imagination and vision so restricted that we should consider ceasing all work involving and encouraging young people, in order to give priority to rebuilding traditional Branches - even assuming we can?

One other point that Tubby made more than once was that, if we ceased to pass on the spirit, we may as well pack in! Surely not only the future of Toc H, but the whole future depends on youth. Is it not the original purpose of Toc H to try to influence their lives according to the ideals of the Movement? Or must membership forms come first? There were no forms in Talbot House or Red Lion Square.

What was right 50 years ago may not attract people in any age group today. We must be prepared to adapt structure and pattern (*though not purpose*) to a changing society. John Calff said *'We stay in moving times'*. This could be an epitaph. We should be concerned with birth certificates.

Harry Brier
Huddersfield

Note: See also 'Reflections on Toc H' elsewhere in this issue. - Editor

Pressure points!

There has been of late a disturbing tendency by 'the establishment' to use questionable tactics against those who oppose its views. A prime example is the treatment being meted out to the CND Movement and its leaders. Another example is the implication that charities indulging in what is termed 'political activities' will have their charitable status removed. While I agree that this is in accordance with the current Charity Laws, it seems to me that in the present state of the economy this places many charities in a veritable straitjacket. In my opinion, if we are attempting to alleviate, even in some small way, the effects of say, drug taking, alcoholism, poverty, unemployment etc, then we must be in a 'political situation'. Nevertheless we should use every legitimate means to improve the lot of those less fortunate than ourselves. Of course, we cannot indulge in 'party' politics, but we can make our presence felt in other ways. Perhaps this is something which we could develop at our forthcoming Day Conferences. What do other readers think?

J R Morgan
Ruislip

What's happening in Port Penrhyn?

Warden 'Mitch' Mitchell writes:

The Toc H Adventure Centre at Port Penrhyn held an Open Day on 23 April. During the day we were open for Toc H members and local people to see the Centre and all its facilities. In the evening four trees were planted and dedicated to the memories of four of the 'founding fathers' of the Centre (see separate report below). Following this short ceremony, a wine and cheese evening was held to say 'thank you' to some of those Branches and local citizens who were instrumental in helping the Centre in its early days. The response to both open day and evening party was overwhelming, with over 100 people through the day and some 110 guests in the evening.

Displays featuring photographs and equipment for indoor and outdoor activities were provided by the Centre's staff, architects' plans and diagrams of the projected East Wing development



Photo: North Wales Chronicle

were on show and Bert Hill brought along the North West Region's slide show depicting Toc H in action.

Many local and Toc H people contributed to the success of the day, and we all want

Management Committee and local members at the Open Day

to extend our thanks to these and to everyone who visited for making the day such a success.

'The magnificent mountains of Snowdonia, so impressive a backcloth to the Adventure Centre at Port Penrhyn, were grey and cloud enshrouded on St George's Day. As the faithful gathered to commemorate the services to the Centre of four illustrious elder brethren, the heavens wept in sympathy.'

The culmination of the Open Day was a simple tribute to those whose vision, faith and enterprise had brought the Centre into being.



Photo: North Wales Chronicle

Centre Secretary Sue Perry with landscape gardener Sheila Perry examine the memorial plaque.

Revd John I Jones, a padre beloved throughout the Movement, had a dream to establish a Toc H centre in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, where you could climb mountains, walk the hills and sail the seas. He searched untiringly but, alas, never lived to see his dream come true: but he had lit the torch for others to carry on the quest.

Hugh Lewis Hughes, known affectionately to all as 'HL', took up the torch and vowed he would crown many years as Chairman of the North Wales and Marches Area with the fulfilment of the dream. He devoted much time, energy and money to the cause, and discovered eventually an old slate warehouse, situated twix mountains and sea on the lovely Menai Straits in Eryri. Thus was born the Port Penrhyn Adventure Centre. He worked unsparingly in the latter years of his life to ensure a firm foundation for the future of the Centre.

Ralph Thorne of Bebington, was Chairman of the North Wales and North West Region, a member of the Central Executive, and first Chairman of the Port Penrhyn Development (later to become Management) Committee. He, more than anyone, fought for national support for the project, and ensured full commitment by the membership by its inclusion in the Jubilee Appeal for 1975.

Johnnie MacMillan was living in the Manchester area and approaching retirement from many years on the staff

when he was enthralled by the challenge at Port Penrhyn. A Scot of courage and determination who had in many parts of the country sought out new concepts of service to challenge the membership, he saw the new Centre as a fitting final 'job', worthy of his wholehearted commitment: he worked unstintingly for the establishment of the Centre, not flagging in his efforts in his retirement.

These were the four pioneers whose services in the early days of the Centre were commemorated with the planting of four saplings by members of their families at the entrance to Port Penrhyn.

The garden was dedicated by the Revd Gwilym Williams, until recently Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Bangor, a member of the Management Committee during his Bishopric; he was supported by the Revd Cledan Mears, his successor as Bishop of Bangor.

A slate plaque stands beneath the saplings with an inscription in both Welsh and English:

Toc H Adventure Centre, Port Penrhyn
'With proud thanksgiving we remember their dream and their endeavours in the early days.'

Padre John I Jones, Hugh L Hughes, Ralph S Thorne, Johnnie B MacMillan.

23.IV.1983

Gwilym Edwards

Toc H Junior Rugby Club

I joined the staff at Port Penrhyn in August 1981, having just completed 14 years teaching rugby football and other subjects. In October, with the long winter season approaching, it became evident that the North Wales area was geared for the tourist but that little or nothing had been provided for local youth. People travelled from all over Britain to the Centre but there was very little 'local' involvement: there was no reason why local groups should not use the Centre's facilities but, how do you get them to start? With my enthusiasm for coaching schoolboy rugby and with the long winter looming ahead, I sought and gained the permission of the Management Committee to start a junior rugby club based at the Centre. Meetings were held with parents, pupils, school staff, rugby clubs and other interested bodies, but apart from the parents and pupils, little or no enthusiasm was shown. 'The idea', I was told 'was tremendous but it could not work'; 'there would not be enough local interest'; 'we were too isolated for fixtures' — and so on.

This all made the enthusiastic boys, their parents and myself determined to prove the pundits wrong! We realised that before we could provide rugby football, we had to 'dangle a bagful of carrots' to get the players. We started coaching at a local special school by kind permission of Mr W Parry-Williams, the Headmaster, in February 1982, but, to our dismay only ten boys turned up! So, we arranged to enter two seven-a-side competitions — one at Dorking (Surrey) the other at Horsham (Sussex). We still had problems



Centre staff with two members of the Toc H Junior Rugby Club

eg the high cost of kit; the colour of shirts; the cost of transport; and many other minor hurdles. By walking into local businessmen's offices and asking for help, we were given a set of black and white shirts, five rugby balls and enough cash to meet our initial commitments. Much to our surprise, the seven-a-side competitions were a great success: Toc H Juniors were in business!

During the 1982 summer months, we kept the squad together and encouraged others to join by providing some water sports. By last autumn we still had no idea how many rugby players we would have, or their ages. Yet, fixtures had to be arranged! Contacts we had made through the summer secured fixtures against Old Newtonians, Leicester, Hoylake, Colwyn Bay, Aston on Mersey and New Brighton (at various age levels). We were in the fortunate position of being able to offer return fixture accommodation at the Centre and by the end of our first full season of 15-a-side rugby we feel proud of our achievements.

To date, 11 matches have been played, with six games lost and five won. We were finalists at Dorking's 1983 seven-a-side. Friends have been won in many parts of the country. Forty eight boys (between the ages of 16½ and 13 years) have

trained and played for the Club. We have gained three coaches of high calibre, including Mr Cemlyn Williams, a Welsh Rugby Union coach. We have a group of willing and loyal helpers who cater for our return games and we have superb coverage from local newspapers. We have moulded groups of boys from eight schools from as far afield as Pwllheli, Colwyn Bay and Anglesey into a unique Junior Club. All these have helped Toc H Juniors to become a family name in the area and beyond.

Toc H Juniors is a Club in its own right, unaffiliated to any other organisation or club. Indeed, it is the only one in Wales of its kind and one of the only two Junior Rugby Football Clubs in Great Britain.

The future looks rosy, with fixtures being arranged with Scotland and Surrey in the 1983/84 season. With the continuing help of all those who have contributed so much so far, we can continue to fulfil our commitments. Travel costs are high and we are always looking for further funds. During the summer months we again hope to provide outdoor activities for the boys. Thus, in winter and summer, we shall be filling a huge local vacuum.

Peter Marshall

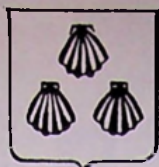


Photo: North Wales Chronicle

Photos: Peter Marshall

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges, 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 3398 31/32.

Mallorca. Mountain village holiday in historic Valldemosa. Fully modernised 15th century house sleeps up to six. Available from 1 May. Minimum stay two weeks. Full particulars from owner: Mrs Gillian Barnett, 21B Canfield Gardens, London NW6. Tel: 01 624 5805.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

North Wales. Happy family hotel, children welcome. H & C all rooms. Two minutes sandy beach and shops. Easy reach North Wales beauty spots and Snowdonia National Park. Parties welcome. SAE brochure: 'The Dolphin', 4 Paradise Crescent, Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd LL34 6AR. Tel: 0492 622223.

Clacton - 6 berth Caravan, fully equipped, excellent site facilities include, pool, shops, children's playground and social centre. May/June - £45 pw, July - £50 pw, August - £60 pw, September - £45 pw. Full details from Mrs M Burgess, 6 Upper Park Road, Clacton-on-Sea. Tel: 0255 429428. SAE please.

N Wales, near Abersoch. Fully equipped four berth caravan, on private site overlooking sea. Ideal for bathing, surfing and touring Lleyrn Peninsula and Snowdonia. No pets. Moderate terms. Enquiries to: Jim Penness, Post Office, Llanengan, Gwynedd. Tel: 075881 2943.

Gloucestershire, B & B The Rectory, Eastington, quiet Severn Vale village, 1½ miles exit 13 M5. Tel: Stonehouse 2437.

Conwy. Dinner and B & B £9 per day. Weekends, midweek bookings, ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, Gwynedd, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

Folkestone. Les and Mary Tripp offer homely, personal service. Reasonable terms. Families welcome. Claremont Private Hotel, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1DQ. Tel: 0303 54897.

Weymouth, bed, breakfast, evening meal from £48 week. Weekend breaks from £14.50. Bar, free parking. Also inclusive coach holidays from most parts of country from about £80 week. Mrs Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Tel: 0305 785296.

Help yourself and use Point Three

Every month the Movement's magazine produces pages of extension news, bright ideas, new personalities, fund raising successes, overseas information, and much more.

It's the best way of knowing exactly what is going on and all for only 10p.

KEEP IN THE KNOW, TAKE OUT A SUBSCRIPTION TODAY AND ORDER EXTRA COPIES FOR YOUR LOCAL CHURCHES, LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS.

THE EASY WAY TO SUBSCRIBE.

To: Toc H Publications Department,
1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Send me copies of POINT THREE each month for one year, starting with the next issue.

I enclose cheque/postal order for made payable to Toc H. (£1.20 for one annual subscription — Any contributions towards postage gratefully accepted.)

Name

Address

